(b) No MoU has been st'gned.

(c) Applicatoitns of Cellular tecbnology in the Indian Telecom. Network is of very recent origja and has still not been introduced. Though ITI has started some development in the area, the pro ject is quite complex and has a long "cycle time".

Purelase of telecom. equipments bom Mnlti-Nationals

1989. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI BKHAMBER NATH PANDE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telecommunications Department is planning to purchase the telecom equipments from multinationals, when the same are available with ITI and BEL in India.

(b) whether there is any price difference between the telecom equipments manufactured by ITI and BEL and the multinational companies; and

(c) if so, what were the reasons that made the Department go in for the purchase of equipments from the multinational companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir, Tho Department generally procures the equipment from Indian companies registered to manufacture the equipments through open tenders.

(b) The price differs from items to item and is decided through open tenders.

(c) In view of (a) question does not arise.

NoB-delivery of Poata and Telegrams in Mayor Yihar

1990. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the residents of Mayur Vihar Phase III (Kondli Oharoli) and adjoining areas *at* Delhi are sufferibg a lot due to non delivery of posts and telegrams; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Govonment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) While every effort is made to maintain postal services there have been some deficiency in delivery of postal articles due to rapid housing development in many areas at the outskirts of Delhi like Mayur Vihar Phase HI, Kondli and Gharoli etc. The telegraph services have, however, been found satifactory.

The remedial steps include redeployment of deliery Staff, reorganisation of delivery work and opening of a new delivery post office besides regular monitoring .

Land for staff quarters and post office at Pandharpor, Maharashtra

1991. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had reserved land for staff quarters and post office at Pandharpur in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the land has been acquired/purchased for the purpose;

(c) if so, by when the construction of staff quarters is proposed to be taken up; and

(d) if the answer to (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for delay in acquiring/purchasing the land; stating the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The constructian of Staff (Juar-ters has not yet been planned in view of (b) above.

(d) The land reserved is in excess of the requirement. Therefore, a request

was made for part acquisition which hag so far not been agreetd to by the Land Acquisition Authority.

Amendnt of Indian Postal Services Act

1992. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Postal Department has recently recommended to Government the amendment of the Indian Postal Act of 1898;

(b) if so, what are the reasons and the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact 'hat there is a bid by the Department of Posts to place crippling constraints on operators of private express services which have grown into a major Rs. 350 crore in-frastructural industry;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that such a move would practically wipe out the Courier industry in the country; and

ff) if not, the reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Indian Post Office Act 1898 has been reviewed by a committee constituted by the Government. Any new Act to replace the existing Act can be done only after the Government decides on the recommendations of the Committee.

(b) The need of amendment has arisen in the context of the detrelop-ments which have taken place nationally as well as intertationlly since the present Act came into force.

(c) No Sir. At present private eix-press services have no legal authority to carry letters. According to the re-commendations of th© Committee to review the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, the exclusive privilege of the Govern ment to carry letters may be liberalised to enable private express services to carry letters within certain parameters to be laid *down* by the Government.

(d) to (f) Does not arise in view of the reply to (c) above.

Provision of new telephones in the capital

1993. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-TIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to provide over four lakh new telephone cormections in the capital in the coming financial year: if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that waiting lists maintained for telephone connections wiU also be clear during the same financial year; and

(c) if so, what are the details in the regard and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Tentative plans have been drawn to provide 4 lakh new telephone connections, in Delhi in the coming financial year. This will make 0YT and Special category waiting list current in 1994 and easy availability of General category telephones in 1995. This is however subject fo timely availability of equipment, financial and other resources.

Improvement of Telecomnuinication Services in Madhya Pradesh

1994. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-TIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to improve the Telephone, Posts and Telegraph services in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the reverme earned by Government from the State Government during 1991-92 and 1992-93 has been higher in comparison to other States;

(c) if so, how much amount was spent on these services during the above period in the State;

(d) to what extent the posts, telegraph and telephone services will be improved during 1993-94;